Evan's Metamodern Maxims for the Heart

Seek Purpose, Not Just Pleasure

View love less as a pursuit of fleeting happiness (*felicitas*) and more as a shared striving towards wholeness, growth, and integrity (*integritas*). True connection orients you towards the Good and fulfills a deeper purpose than mere enjoyment.

Embrace Love's "Madness"

Don't fear the disorientation or loss of control that deep love can bring ("head over heels"). This "madness" isn't insanity, but a necessary surrender that can lead to profound self-discovery and true (metamodern) freedom, found in obedience to something greater than the ego.

Value Depth Over Options

Reject the "modern freedom" trap of endless, superficial choices (like swiping endlessly). True freedom lies in committing to a meaningful connection, even if it reduces options. Having "no one to love" is a greater loss of freedom than choosing one person deeply.

Believe in Real Connection

Trust the "compass-like certainty" of profound connection. Recognize that deep, seemingly "fated" bonds (natural strings of entanglement) can be real and are more than just chemical reactions or coincidence. These bonds have ontological weight.

Practice "Metamodern Possession"

Understand that true intimacy isn't about ownership or control, but mutual becoming. Be willing to let your partner possess parts of you as you possess parts of them, allowing a "qualitative osmosis" that changes you both for the better.

Discern the Nature of Intensity

Extreme love is real and powerful, but be wise. Learn to distinguish between transformative, reciprocal love (like "amigeist") and potentially destructive patterns like obsession, delusion, or unrequited Limerence. Know *what kind* of intensity you're feeling; the truth is accessible.

Cherish Time's Irreplaceable Arrow

Recognize that shared history and unique moments are unrepeatable. Treat time with your beloved as precious, knowing that love is built moment by moment on a path you can't retrace. Avoid the fantasy of infinite do-overs.

See Love as a Spiritual Duty

If you recognize a genuine, deep "soul-bond," engaging in it fully and striving for its "perfect participation" isn't just a preference, it's a spiritual and ethical obligation. It's part of actualizing the Good in the world.

Look Beyond the Surface

Don't judge potential connections solely on superficial compatibility or immediate ease. Remember Catherine's dilemma in *Wuthering Heights* – the deepest bonds often defy simple explanation or practical advantage.

Dare to Be Vulnerable

Avoid locking your heart away to prevent pain. As C.S. Lewis suggested, becoming "impenetrable" is a greater tragedy than heartbreak. True love, especially the extreme kind, requires vulnerability and the courage to risk yourself.